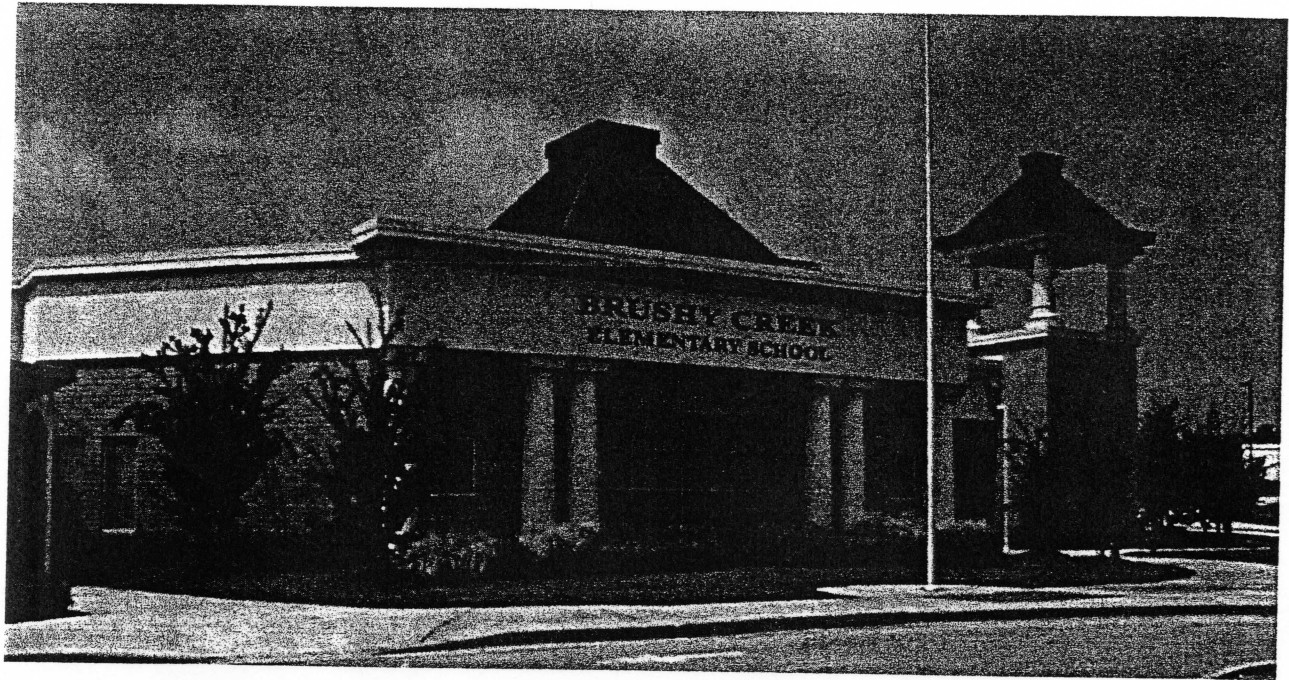




BRUSHY CREEK ELEMENTARY

Building a Community of Excellence One Student at a Time!

Greenville County Schools



Brushy Creek Elementary School
1344 Brushy Creek Road, Taylors, SC 29687
Telephone: (864) 355-5400
website: www.greenville.k12.sc.us/bcreek
Greenville County Schools

Interim Principal:

Mr. Charles T. Davis, Jr.
(864) 355-5410
email: ctdavis@greenville.k12.sc.us

School Improvement Council (SIC) Chairperson:

Mr. Richard M. Arboscello
115 Bransfield Road
Greenville, SC 29615
(864) 787-8953
email: rick_arbo@yahoo.com

Case Statement

Brushy Creek Elementary School (BCES) has a long history of excellence in education, care and concern for students, and a strong involvement with the community. BCES is located in the suburban community of Taylors, South Carolina. In August 2001, BCES moved into a new facility designed for a capacity of 800 students with core facilities for 1,000 students. Students at Brushy Creek Elementary School are mostly from middle class neighborhoods. Our poverty index is 53% and our free and reduced lunch population is 40%. Over the past five years BCES continued to grow with a diverse student enrollment. Our student population consists of 60% Caucasian, 15% African American, 11% Hispanic, and 5% Asian and 6% other. Special Education make up 10%, English as a Second Language students are 13%, and 15% of the students are in Challenge. BCES grew over 150 diverse students for the 2012-2013 school year totaling an enrollment of 867. There are 23% of BCES students that received special permission and 3 % of the students were in the No Child Left Behind (NCLB) population.

The students at Brushy Creek come from a wide range of socio-economic groups. Brushy Creek families earn incomes spanning from less than \$10,000 to more than \$200,000 per year. The majority of our parents have a high school education. Many of our parents have some level of college degree. They have occupations such as doctors, lawyers, architects, pilots, teachers, construction management, engineers, and police officers. The BCES after-school program helps care for students that are raised in single parent homes and homes where both parents work. Our poverty index is 53% and has steadily increased over the last few years.

Brushy Creek Elementary has a very active PTO and SIC. The parents act as mentors for students, serve as room parents, or assist the teachers with instructional needs. Many volunteers are members of committees that involve our grounds maintenance and beautification, ways and means, hospitality and several others. As an active SIC we continue to promote and support civic engagement for a quality public education in a safe environment. Safety of our children always is priority at Brushy Creek Elementary. Students also apply for Safety Patrol positions at the end of fourth grade and are selected by a teacher committee based upon academic performance, attendance, behavior, and leadership skills. The Safety Patrol creates a safe environment by assisting 470 car riders daily before school and after school. 350 students are transported to and from school via Day Care Vans or Buses. There are 47 students that are considered walkers and they live within one mile from BCES. Students that walk to school are assisted by 2 police department crossing guards facilitating East North Street east of BCES and Brushy Creek Rd. west of BCES. BCES stands beside Brushy Creek Baptist Church on Old Spartanburg Rd and across the street is SunTrust Bank located in a shopping center with a large parking area. During the previous year BCES SIC identified an area of focus to improve the safety that concerns our school population. The following safety goal reflects our SIC's focus.

Goal: To provide a safer physical environment at BCES and educate Parents and Students on the Safety and Efficiency of the Car Line Drop Off and Pick Up System and for the Safety of students that are designated to walk to school.

According to Safe Kids South Carolina, accidental injury is the number one cause of death among children ages 14 and under in the United States. Each year one out of four children needs medical attention for an accidental injury. One of the most common causes of accidental injury to children in South Carolina is motor vehicle crashes, which involve children as passengers, pedestrians, and bicyclists.

Issues

Issue One

The SIC recognized the inefficiency in the afternoon car line and unsafe practices. Children and teachers were at risk of being hit by a car because of drivers pulling around the stopped cars. SIC found several issues that slow down the carpool line: One is that children who don't come out of the school building when their number is called. Another is when parents who changed their minds about how their child would go home. For example, the parent is in the carpool line waiting for a child who is designated to be in the afterschool program. These change of plans can hinder the efficiency of carline process.

Issue Two

A dangerous practice that takes place when parents park in an unauthorized location and direct their children to leave school to walk to their car. This practice makes it impossible for BCES to ensure the child's safety. In the 2010-2011, there were about 40 cars that parked at the nearby Brushy Baptist Church and SunTrust bank on a daily basis. These students are characterized as car riders not walkers. This unsafe practice is not only dangerous for their students but for our 47 students that walk to school. Students are at risk of being hit by a car coming out of the SunTrust Bank drive-thru or in the parking lot at Brushy Creek Baptist Church. It is unsafe for students that walk to school and may have to walk in and out of cars that are not authorized to be there. The students that walk to and from school also need to be educated to use the sidewalks and not walk through the bank parking lot in front of the drive-thru. Just imagine at 2:35 a driver is checking their bank statement driving off from the bank teller to all of a sudden have to slam on their brakes to avoid hitting a BCES student.

Actions Taken

The SIC took action to communicate with PTA and BCES administration improvement the meet the goal to provide a safer physical environment at BCES and educate Parents and Students on the Safety and Efficiency of the Car Line Drop Off and Pick Up System. The SIC educates students that are designated to walk to school with collaboration of SC Safe Routes to School.

During the 2010-11, SIC communicated with PTA and had a post-and-chain fence was installed along the walkway leading from Brushy Creek road to the front entrance of the school as an added protective barrier for students and their families who arrive/depart from the school as pedestrians. Also SIC and PTA decided to install barrier row made of laurel hedge bushes was installed along the perimeter of the school that runs parallel to Brushy Creek road so cars would not drive onto the side walk and onto the BCES campus. In 2011-2012 BCES SIC collaborated with SC Routes to School to identify a methodology for a safer environment. The SIC developed an effective relationship with SunTrust Bank staff and Brushy Creek Baptist Church to help provide a much safer environment in those areas and properties nearby BCES. Many students utilize these properties to walk home from school. In 2011-2012, SIC received support from SunTrust Bank and Brushy Creek Baptist Church where they mounted signage near their entrance ways such as Keep of Grass, No Stopping, No Parking, and No Standing.

In 2011-2012, the car line drop-off/pick-up procedures and routes were amended. A number identification system was created for afternoon car pick-up. Volunteer faculty and student patrol ensure the safety of students as they are dropped off and picked up at school. Safety policies regarding pedestrian students were re-introduced. All BCES pedestrian students are required to provided signed permission forms. Students who wish to walk to school without parent supervision must be in the 2nd grade or higher. Administration identifies these walkers by their address. Restrictions were instituted and communicated to prevent the drop-off/pick-up of students at undesigned, unsupervised, and unauthorized locations outside the school campus.

Results of Actions

To ensure the safety of the students and improve efficiency of the dismissal procedures the SIC meeting with administration and the adjustments made to the afternoon car pick up system help decrease the wait time by 15 to 20 minutes in a much safer environment in 2011-2012. As students are loaded into cars, a group of cars will now be designated to wait until all students are loaded. Drivers will wait until all students in two groups of ten (per grade levels pick up area K5-1st Grade and 2nd-5th Grades) which the twenty cars are loaded before driving off. Parents and students were educated on the carline pick-up system procedures to ensure the safety of adults and children. If a student does not exit the building when their number is called, the parents know to pull over to the designated area outside the car line so that the traffic is not held up. Then the parent understands that they can walk to the nearest crossing guard with the yellow number to wait for their student. Both arrival and dismissal times were drastically reduced, with afternoon car line wait times averaging approximately 15 minutes.

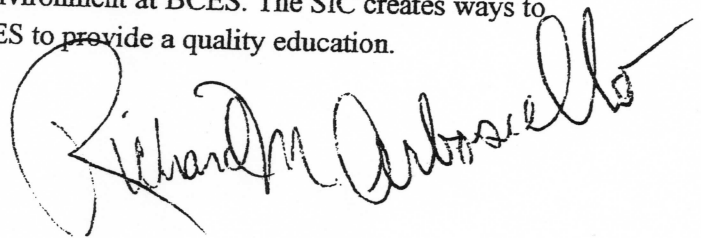
Each car rider has now been assigned a number for the length of their enrollment a BCES. The number is used during afternoon dismissal only. The yellow card number is announced for each child to be picked up safely in order to dismiss them accordingly. To protect the students, parent's now understand that they are not permitted to pick-up their child without a car number/card and that they are required to report to the main office to present their proper identification. SIC and BCES administration communicated the need for a lap top to utilize this proper identification system in an efficient manner. This system is in accordance with our South Carolina state accountability standards to identify parents, volunteers, and visitors. The SIC recruited the services of the Ident-A-Kid Child Identification program to provide safe measures for the protection of each student enrolled at BCES.

Parents have been educated that they are not permitted to walk to the building to pick-up a child if they are of designated car rider status. They must utilize the carline. Parents have been educated that they do not park in an unauthorized location and direct their children to leave school to walk to their car. They now realize that this is a dangerous practice and it makes it impossible for BCES to ensure the child's safety. The mounted signage displayed near their entrance ways of SunTrust and Brushy Creek Baptist Church such as "Keep of Grass," "No Stopping, No Parking, and No Standing" has made such an impact that no unauthorized cars remain on those properties before or after school resulting in 2011-2012. Previously there were a chaotic 40 cars dropping their children off in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon. Also, cars are no longer causing congestion on East North Street in the morning which can also create an unsafe environment for vehicular traffic and pedestrians. Students that walk to and from school realize that it is unsafe not to walk down the grassy hill in front of the SunTrust Bank drive-thru. They obey the sign and continue to walk on the sidewalk.

The installation of the barrier also increased traffic flow decreasing wait time in the car line so drivers would park and drive their cars in the designated areas making BCES a safer campus. This also was an added safety measure intended to prevent vehicles from circumventing the usual roadway used for entrance/exit from the school.

Collaborating with Safe Kids South Carolina and SC Safe Routes to School continue to show that ninety percent of accidental injuries can be prevented if we continuously stay abreast on education, resources, and abide by better laws and state and federal accountability requirements to protect our students at BCES. At BCES the SIC see keeping our children safe as an investment in their lives and in the future.

A BCES survey for the 2011-2012 year shows 100% of the teachers, 95.4% of students, and 92.4% of parents are satisfied with the social and physical environment at BCES. The SIC creates ways to generate a safer environment with civic engagement for BCES to provide a quality education.





Brushy Creek Elementary School Greenville County Schools

November 15, 2012

Dear Riley Award Committee Members,

I am delighted to write in support of the Brushy Creek Elementary School SIC for the Dick Riley SIC Award for the 2012-2013 school year.

To ensure the safety of our children and improve the efficiency of our dismissal procedures, the School Improvement Council (SIC) at Brushy Creek assisted in the restructuring of our afternoon carline pick-up system. Our school decided that a more systemic approach to parents picking-up their children in the afternoon carline was needed in order to ensure the safety of our students, so we began exploring other dismissal systems as a way to improve transportation safety at Brushy Creek.

This school year, SIC members consistently met with administrators, teachers, school counselors, Parent Teacher Association (PTA) and community members to discuss carline safety issues, review current pick-up/drop-off procedures, and discuss a plan of action for improving our dismissal and car pick-up system. As a result of the efforts of SIC, the school developed and implemented a new systemic way of dismissing our students in the carline to increase the overall safety of not only the students but staff members as well. The new system with the support of SIC, implemented the following safeguards:

- Tagging system of cars in groups of twenty
- Loading only twenty cars at a time
- As we load our students into cars, we ask parents and groups of cars to wait until all children are loaded before driving off
- Each car rider was assigned a number for the length of his/her enrollment at Brushy Creek
- Parents must display the card number on the front of the car windshield
- To protect the students, parents will not be permitted to pick-up a child without a car number/card and will be required to report to the main office to present proper identification
- Parents are not permitted to walk to the building to pick-up a child-everyone MUST utilize the car line.

The effort of Brushy Creek's SIC has allowed us to work together as a team to improve the efficiency and safety of our students during dismissal in the carline. It is with great pleasure that I support our SIC in their quest to receive the SC-SIC 2013 Riley Award.

In Kind Regards,

Charles T. Davis, Jr.
Interim Principal

1344 Brushy Creek Road - Taylors, SC 29687

864-355-5400 (phone) 864-355-5413 (fax)

bcreek@greenville.k12.sc.us





Brushy Creek

BAPTIST CHURCH | TAYLORS

November 18, 2012

Riley Award Committee,

Brushy Creek Baptist Church property adjoins Brushy Creek Elementary along Old Spartanburg Road. We regularly offer our parking lots for BCE teacher and parent use during special events.

This spring at one of the entrances to our property from Old Spartanburg Road we noticed that drivers dropping off children were causing an unsafe situation. Cars would drive into the entrance and stop along the right and left curbs, not moving through to park in a designated parking space. When cars were close to those curbs another line of traffic would travel between the right and left rows of cars to enter our parking lot. Some drivers parked and walked their children to school property. Others simply stopped and let the children out. If cars along the right curb let children out from the passenger side of their car, the children were in a safe area and only had to cross the bus lane on Brushy Creek Elementary campus. There is a school crossing attendant at that crossing. The cars in the center lane or along the left curb that let children out were putting them out into an unsafe situation...children walking between running vehicles to cross one or two lanes of cars

We discussed the situation with the BCE principal and members of the SIC. We proposed signage to keep drivers from dropping off children in the entrance drives. BCE, at the same time, re-emphasized the requirement to go through the drop off line.

The installed signage and BCE's coordinated and continued emphasis on using the drop off line has yielded a great reduction in the number of drivers creating unsafe conditions for the children.

Sincerely,

Marshall Croy
Facility Manager

Brushy Creek Baptist Church | Taylors

4999 Old Spartanburg Rd · Taylors, SC 29687 | p - 864.244.5075 | e - staff@brushycreek.org | BrushyCreek.org

Sabina K. Weaver
710 Meadow Haze Court
Greer, SC 29650
864-270-2250
Sabina.weaver@yahoo.com

November 15, 2012

To Riley Award Committee:

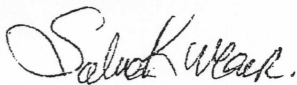
I have been a proud parent at Brushy Creek Elementary School for now 6 years and currently have three children who attend the school (5th, 4th and 2nd grade). My family has chosen Brushy Creek by special permission. We chose this school over our zoned school, secondary to its wonderful reputation and its commitment to the students it serves. I have seen some good changes in many ways that confirms me that my children are safe and in good hands.

I spend every morning and afternoon in the carline and have seen increased efficiency due to the number of safety patrols and loading twenty cars/students at a time. It has been very closely watched by administration, teachers and the patrol officers to assure that kids do not run out in front of cars and get to their cars safely. Also, I have been one of those moms who has been in an hurry trying to get my kids on time and have used some measures which now are not prohibited. There is a small old bank and a church next to the school, where I would drop off my kids for them to get in quicker and avoided using the carline. But we have since received a letter to encourage all parents not to do this, to once again increase safety measure for our children. I have since found out that our SIC group has put in a lot of work with safety measures like the ones I mentioned.

I have found in the past year that the school has become more and more safe and I am so happy that we have chosen Brushy Creek Elementary for my family.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,



Sabina K. Weaver

Narrative

The Brushy Creek Elementary School (BCES) School Improvement Council (SIC) established goals to assist the school in implementing and evaluating a safer physical environment at BCES during the previous school year 2011-2012. One of the goals of the SIC is to provide a safer physical environment at BCES and educate parents and students on the safety and efficiency of the car line drop off and pick up system and for the safety of students that are designated to walk to school. The yearly SIC sponsored New Student Orientation project in May was enhanced realizing our goal to educate and reassure new parents and students of our safety procedures at BCES.

In the 2011-2012 school year our SIC collaborated with organizations such as Brushy Creek Baptist Church and the SunTrust Bank to establish safety measures that improved safety in the surrounding areas of our school. BCES is located beside Brushy Creek Baptist Church on Old Spartanburg Rd and across the street is SunTrust Bank located in a shopping center with a large parking area (See Topographic Map enclosed in the Level 2 Application). Through our collaborative partnership, signs were implemented in 2011-2012 on behalf of the church that are now located in the church's parking lot (See Picture 1 enclosed in the Level 2 application). These signs have impacted the decisions that BCES parents made as car riders. The mounted signage displayed near their entrance ways of SunTrust and Brushy Creek Baptist Church such as "No Stopping, No Parking, and No Standing" has made such an impact that no unauthorized cars remain on those properties before or after school. Previously there were 40 cars dropping their children off in the morning or picking them up in the afternoon (See Picture 2). Also, cars are no longer causing congestion on East North Street in the morning, which created an unsafe environment for vehicular traffic and pedestrians. After PTA meetings facilitated by SIC representatives and school administrators, the community realized how unsafe it was for students to walk down the grassy hill in front of the SunTrust Bank drive-thru (See Picture 3). Therefore, the decision was made to discontinue this practice.

The safety of our children has always been a top priority at Brushy Creek Elementary. Not only are our parents concerned about safety committed to safety, but our students are as well. An example of our student's commitment is their involvement through Safety Patrol. Each school year students apply for Safe Kids Safety Patrol positions at the end of fourth grade and are selected by a teacher committee based upon academic performance, attendance, behavior, and leadership skills. This year, the Safe Kids Safety Patrols create a safe environment by assisting 470 car riders daily before and after school in loading and unloading cars. There are 350 students who are transported to and from school by either day care vans or buses. There are 47 students that walk to and from school who live within one mile of BCES. Students that walk to school are assisted by two police department crossing guards on East North Street and Brushy Creek Road.

Due to SIC's contributions to new safety procedures, there have been many positive results culminating in a safer physical environment at BCES. In order to enhance effective communication regarding safety, a dismissal video was created to educate parents during New Student/Parent Orientation (See video and pictures enclosed in the Level 2 Application). As a result, our school report card survey indicated an overwhelmingly positive view of the school's social and physical environment.

The adjustments made to the afternoon car pick up system help decrease the amount of time it took to dismiss over 400 students. Parents and students are aware of the carline pick-up system procedures to ensure the safety of adults and children. If a student does not exit the building when their number is called, the parents know to pull over to the designated area outside the car line so that the traffic is not held up. Then the parents understand that they can walk to the nearest crossing guard with the yellow number to wait for their student. Both arrival and dismissal times were drastically reduced, with afternoon car line wait times averaging approximately 15 minutes.

In the 2012-2013 school year, ongoing communications from Mr. Davis, Interim Principal, along with the BCES manual helped communicate the importance of safety education to parents and students. We are blessed to have a supportive SIC and PTA who understand the importance of working together to ensure that our students not only receive an excellent education, but can do so in the safest environment possible. We truly believe in Building a Community of Excellence one Student at a time!